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PORTO RICO.

*Report from Ponce.*PONCE, P. R., *December 23, 1901.*

SIR: Through the chief quarantine officer for Porto Rico, I have the honor to transmit herewith the quarantine and abstract of bills of health reports for the week ended December 21, 1901.

During the week 2 vessels were inspected and passed, and 3 were held in quarantine. Eight bills of health were issued.

French steamship *St. Domingue* arrived on the 17th, from Port-au-Prince, Jeremie, Les Cayes, Jacmel, Santo Domingo, and Mayaguez. Seventeen passengers were allowed to land after disinfection of their baggage. Sixteen pieces of baggage and 2 sacks of mail were disinfected; 3 inspected and passed. Provisional flag steamship *Julia* arrived on the 18th, from Havana, Nuevitas, Gibara, Baracoa, Santiago, Santo Domingo, and Macoris, with 115 passengers for Ponce. Baggage from Dominican Republic and unlabeled baggage from Cuba were disinfected. Forty-three pieces of baggage and 2 sacks of mail were disinfected, and 80 were inspected and passed.

Spanish steamship *Ciudad de Cadiz*, arrived on the 19th, from Havana, Port Limon, Colon, Sabanilla, Puerto Cabello, and La Guayra, with 10 cabin passengers for Ponce from La Guayra. These vessels remained in port but a few hours, transacting business in quarantine.

The sanitary condition of the city is about the same. Some street cleaning is being done, improving somewhat the filthy condition of the streets.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

*Inspection of immigrants at Ponce for the week ended December 21, 1901.*PONCE, P. R., *December 23, 1901.*

SIR: Through the chief quarantine officer for Porto Rico, I submit herewith report of alien steerage passengers arriving at this port during the week ended December 21, 1901: December 17, French steamship *St. Domingue*, from Port au Prince and Santo Domingo, with 5 immigrants. December 18, provisional flag steamship *Julia*, from Havana and Santo Domingo, with 15 immigrants. December 19, Spanish steamship *Ciudad de Cadiz*, from Havana, Port Limon, Colon, Sabanilla, Puerto Cabello, and La Guayra, with 3 immigrants.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

RUSSIA.

*Case of suspected plague at Batoum.*BATOUM, RUSSIA, *December 12, 1901.*

SIR: I beg to confirm my letter of 28th ultimo, No. 1281, and to inform you that the case of plague, or suspicion of plague, then reported was the only one here until three days ago, when an old woman was sent to the pesthouse who, it is said, had been ill for three weeks, with